

October 16, 1989
R-6570-YYB-2512

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Subject: Incident Report at the 10-71 Building
October 4, 1989

At approximately 11:04 a.m. on October 4, 1989 the Boeing Fire Department received notification that a small vial of Mercuric Oxycyanide had been found and placed outside of the south end of the 10-71 Building. This chemical is highly poisonous and could explode if handled improperly. The chemical was found by a company driver of Resource and Recovery on a routine small quantity pick-up. It is believed that this chemical is from Lab Number 20 of the 10-71 Building.

The City of Renton had been responding to a false alarm at another location and was on the scene by 11:05 a.m. The city notified the King County Bomb Squad and the Port of Seattle. Due to the nature of the chemical, neither of these agencies felt they were capable of assisting. They can respond if the chemical were only an explosive, but since it was toxic, they do not have the expertise needed for removal and disposal.

At approximately 11:32 a.m. Gary Scherck, a Boeing chemist, was notified and his assistance was requested. The King County Bomb Squad has worked with Gary in the past and were willing to assist him on this occasion. Gary wanted Level "A" protection while neutralizing the chemical therefore, the Boeing and City of Renton Hazmat teams were activated at approximately 1:05 p.m. The King County Bomb Squad was on

th scene by 1:08 p.m. There were two options available for handling of the chemical:

1. Have the Bomb Squad open the container outside and then Gary would neutralize.
2. Evacuate the 10-71 Building. Have the Bomb Squad carry the vial into the building with a hose team dressed in Level "B" protective clothing over Bunker gear set up right outside the lab. Once the bomb squad removed the cap Gary would neutralize.

The Boeing Ordinance Organization was contacted for information about the explosive potential of the material. Ordinance stated the material has a weak explosion potential. Given the proper condition, it may explode with the force of a small fire cracker.

After careful consideration, and using the information provided by Ordinance, Option Number 2 was selected. At no point was human life put in jeopardy.

At approximately 1:56 p.m. the 10-71 building was evacuated and a thorough sweep of the building was conducted. Once the sweep was finished, the bomb squad brought the vial into the building and removed the cap without incident.

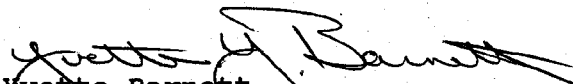
Gary Scherck completed the neutralization of the chemical and a second entry team entered the building. The second entry team was evaluating and testing the area before Safety could allow the building occupants to return.

The occupants were allowed to reenter the facility at 3:30 p.m. Total evacuation time had been approximately one and a half hours. By 3:45 p.m., all the objectives had been met, the building was turned back over to Boeing, and the incident was terminated.

In a follow-up meeting between Boeing and City of Renton personnel, it was felt the incident went very well. A major problem was that the incident initially was not a hazmat situation. Once it became a hazmat situation, the groups should have regrouped and set up an Incident Command System. This problem will be resolved in a meeting being set-up between Boeing and the City of Renton.

The problem of communication, or lack of, still exists. The Renton Boeing Hazmat Team's radios have arrived and the team will be trained the week of October 16, 1989.

Personn 1 from the 10-71 Building need more awareness training. Ray Olsen is arranging for Gary Scherck to brief the chemists from the 10-71 Building on being hazmat chemists. Ray is also arranging more safety awareness training for the building personnel.


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Enclosures: City of Renton Report
Boeing Fire Department Report